(c) whether the NHRC has also prepared an outline of the proposed Indian Prisons Bill;

(d) if so, the details therof, alongwith the action taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether Government propose to issue directions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission in their Annual Reports have been expressing concern regarding the conditions prevailing in jails and have recommended replacement of the existing Indian Prisons Act, 1894 by a Model Prison Bill. The Commission forwarded a copy of the Model Prison Bill to all the State Governments on 29.8.96 and to the Government of India on 21.11.96. The Commission also desired that legislative action be undertaken at an early date on the basis of the draft Model Prison Bill prepared by them.

However, the role of the Government of India has been to provide financial assistance, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, to the State Governments, to supplement their efforts to improve prison infrastructure, living conditions of prisoners and to provide medical facilities in jails etc. The Tenth Finance Commission has also recommended financial assistance to the State Governments for providing medical facilities in jails.

As 'Prisons' is a State subject under list-II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, Parliament has no power to legislate on the subject unless action under article 252 of the Constitution is taken by the States. The Ministry of Home Affairs have written to the Chief Ministers of all State Governments to have the appropriate resolution passed under article 252 of the Constitution by their respective State legislatures authorising the Parliament to legislate on prisons, in public interest. So far no such resolution has been received by the Central Government from any State legislature.

Voting Rights to NRI Citizens

1540. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving voting rights to non-resident Indian citizens;

(b) if not, whether Government will consider the proposal as a large number of citizens are deprived of their fundamental right to vite; and

(c) whether any other democratic country has given voting right to its citizens who are working outside their country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Government had received some representations in the past regarding viting rights to Non-resident Indians, but the proposal was not found feasible owing to practical and administrative difficulties.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Chargesheeted Ministers in Babri Mosque demolition case

1541. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) How many Central and State Government Ministers have been chargesheeted in the Babri Mosque demolition case;

(b) The sections of Cr. P. C. under which each one of them has been charged;

(c) whether the offences under which they have been charged are bailable or non-bailable; and

(d) How many of them are on bail?